

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. In an inventory management system having a database and a network connection interconnected a product manufacturer and at least one component part supplier, a process comprising the steps of:
  - 5       estimating possible quantity of component parts supplied from the component part supplier based on spare part records of the component part supplier stored in the database;  
          writing the estimation into one of a plurality of documents wherein a quantity, a description, and a proportion of the component parts of a product required in a  
10      forthcoming period of time are listed in fields of the document; and  
          informing the component part supplier of the proportion of the component parts listed in the document through the network connection for confirmation.
  2. The process of claim 1, wherein the spare part records of the component part supplier are recorded monthly.
  - 15   3. The process of claim 1, wherein the spare part records of the component part supplier are recorded yearly.
  4. The process of claim 1, wherein the spare part records of the component part supplier are recorded in an average.
  5. The process of claim 1, wherein the component part supplier is allowed to  
20   modify the estimated proportion of the component parts in the fields of the document directly, if the proportion is not achievable in the forthcoming period of time.
  6. The process of claim 1, wherein the system determines whether the component part supplier has replied the document to a computer of the product  
25   manufacture within a predetermined period of time after receiving the same by a computer system of the component part supplier, and the system stores the replied document in the database if the determination is positive.

7. The process of claim 6, wherein if the determination is negative, the system takes the estimated quantity of the component parts as a possible quantity of the component parts supplied by the component part supplier in the forthcoming period of time and store the same in the database.